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THE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

FOR THE

PROTECTION

OF THE

FAMILY.

Annual Report for 1897.

BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY

THE

National League for the Protection of the Family.

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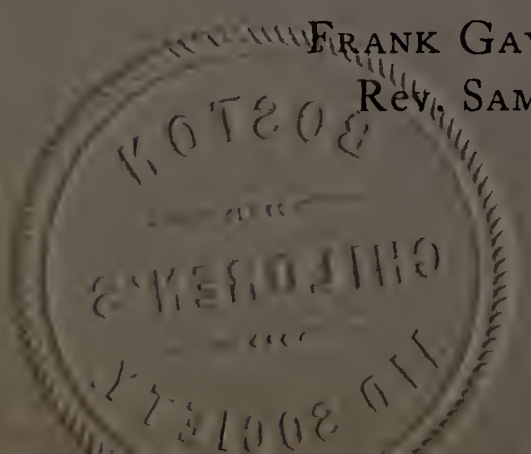

REPORT

OF THE

National League for the Protection of the Family

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31, 1897.

BOSTON:
THE EVERETT PRESS COMPANY, PRINTERS,
47 Franklin Street,
1898.

Prefatory Notes.

Attention is called to remarks on page 6 regarding the change in the name of the League, and to the restatement of its object, in Article II. of the Constitution, as printed on page three of the cover.

Reports for years since 1890, the special report for 1895 being "A Review of Fifteen Years," and a few only of our special issues, can be sent to those who apply for them. We are always glad to send copies to important libraries.

The report of the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, LL.D., Commissioner of Labor, on Marriage and Divorce in the United States and Europe, can be had on application addressed to the Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Attention is called to the need of giving the only society directly devoted to a comprehensive work for the Family the generous support which the nature and importance of this work require. The great denominational and other benevolent societies depend largely upon the quality of the Home for their own supplies of men and money. Several thousand dollars a year expended for the Family as an institution is so much in direct aid of other societies. Kindly read the remarks on this subject and the appeal for an endowment on pp. 18, 19 of our Report.

Associate Annual Membership is invited from those who cannot give large sums. This is freely granted to all proper persons, both ladies and gentlemen, on payment of *five dollars* for the year. Such persons vote in our meetings and receive all our publications. *If you cannot be a larger contributor, will you not send your request for associate membership, with the fee, and thus share in this work for the Family?*

The Treasurer, Mr. William G. Benedict, 610 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, will gratefully acknowledge all contributions sent to him.

Correspondence relating to the work of the League should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. Samuel W. Dike, LL.D., 113 Hancock Street, Auburndale, Mass. Contributions may also be sent directly to him.

Minutes.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the National Divorce Reform League, duly called, was held at the Diocesan House, Boston, Jan. 28, 1898, at 3 P.M. In the absence of Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., the President, Vice-President Professor George Harris, D.D., called the meeting to order, and opened with prayer. The Recording Secretary read the call of the meeting and the minutes of the last annual meeting. The Corresponding Secretary, Dr. S. W. Dike, presented the following tribute to the late Hon. Edmund H. Bennett: —

"In the death of Hon. Edmund H. Bennett, LL.D., the Dean of the Law School of the Boston University, the League has lost one of its best friends. Judge Bennett was Chairman of our Executive Committee during five years, and the head of the Massachusetts Commissioners on Uniform Legislation. He also had been a member of the Committee on the Canons of Marriage and Divorce in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and an occasional writer upon these subjects. By his great learning, his wise counsel, and his generous sympathies, he rendered us valuable service, while his fine qualities of mind and heart endeared him to all who knew him as the choicest of personal friends."

This tribute was adopted as the expression of the body. The report of the Treasurer, Mr. William G. Benedict, was given and accepted, and referred to Mr. William B. Herrick as Auditor. The Committee on Change of Name reported that the League be henceforth called "The National League for the Protection of the Family." The Report was unanimously adopted.

It was voted unanimously to change Art. II. of the Constitution so as to read as follows: "Its object shall be, through the improvement of public sentiment and legislation, to protect the institution of the Family, especially as affected by existing evils relating to Marriage and Divorce, and to secure its proper efficiency in individual and social life."

It was voted unanimously to so amend Art. V. as to use the word "third" in place of "first," and to insert the words "Chairman of the" before the words "Executive Committee."

It was voted that the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the

Corresponding Secretary, and one other, to be named by the President, be a Committee on New Members.

It was voted that the officers of last year be elected for the ensuing year.

President, Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., LL.D.

Vice-Presidents, Hon. Nathaniel Shipman, LL.D., Pres. Seth Low, LL.D., Prof. George Harris, D.D.

Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Samuel W. Dike, LL.D.

Recording Secretary, Rev. C. H. Spalding, D.D.

Treasurer, Mr. William G. Benedict.

Executive Committee, Prof. George Harris, D.D.; President M. H. Buckham, D.D.; Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, LL.D.; Prof. Francis G. Peabody, D.D.; Prof. W. E. Huntington, Ph.D.; Rev. James De Normandie; Prof. G. D. B. Pepper, D.D.; Rev. Daniel Merriman, D.D.; Hon. Charles C. Burr; Mr. Everett O. Fisk; Mr. Frank Gaylord Cook; Rev. Samuel W. Dike, LL.D.

The Corresponding Secretary read portions of his Annual Report, which was accepted and ordered printed and distributed at the discretion of Dr. Dike.

Voted to adjourn.

C. H. SPALDING,
Recording Secretary.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 28, 1898.

Report of Corresponding Secretary.

INTRODUCTION.

Our Annual Report varies so much from year to year, as our work develops in one direction or another, that we must refer readers to former reports, and especially to that for 1895, which is "A Review of Fifteen Years," for a fuller understanding of the work of any one year or of the general movement. The subjects for special treatment this year are: our new name; the recognition of a general movement in behalf of the Home; the legislation of 1897, with some remarks on the origin of our loose Marriage and Divorce laws; the Home as a rapidly growing factor in the treatment of educational and philanthropic work; the present opportunity of the Church; and the relation of the League to the denominational societies. The reader is referred to these and other topics as they may be found on the following pages.

OUR NEW NAME.

The change in the name of the League and the new statement of its object, which appears in Article II. of the Constitution, on the third page of the cover, meets a public need. It also puts us before the public in our true character; for we have always looked at Marriage, Divorce, and other subjects of domestic life as parts of the one inclusive problem of the Family, from which the various specific questions should be considered. This nature of our work is now recognized on all sides. It was only local conditions which have now disappeared that first compelled the narrower title of Divorce Reform League. We now become in name what we have always been in fact, *The National League for the Protection of the Family*. A shorter name, if equally clear, would be desirable. So, too, would a better word than *Protection*, if this and our entire methods did not plainly show that both defence and improvement are the necessary parts of the protection of a social institution like the Family. On the whole, too, we find *Family* a better term for us even than *Home*, which has been widely used by societies having other objects than the immediate welfare of the Home.

A PLACE FOR THE LEAGUE.

The mere fact that the Family is the fundamental institution of society, whence Church, State, School, Industry, and every other

kind of social interest must draw their own supplies, is enough to justify the existence of a vigorous association devoted to the protection and improvement of the Family. That serious evils threaten its existence or sap its strength is a still further reason for the presence of our League. It was these that led to its organization, and these alone would require our continuation with increasing effort.

And to these reasons we add the promise of the future from the actual results accomplished. The general recognition of an urgent problem of the Family, and the introduction of systematic instruction regarding it into a large part of our higher educational institutions, all of it falling within the period of our existence; the official report on the conditions of Marriage and Divorce in this and other countries; the creation of Commissions on Uniform Legislation in a majority of our States; a steady and constant improvement in Marriage and Divorce Laws in many States and all the Territories; the successful Home Department of the Sunday-school, showing what can be done through direct use of the Home itself in religious work; the awakening of the interest of educators in the work of a closer adjustment of the public school and the Home to each other; and the deep conviction of economists and philanthropists in every field that the problems of poverty, pauperism, crime, intemperance, unchastity, and a low grade of political morality are all, at their root, largely problems of the Home; — all these things have come about during the years of our work, and in considerable degree because of it. There is both greater need and larger opportunity for our League because of what it has already done, and because a general problem of the Family has now received wide recognition. And last, but by no means least in the minds of many, is the illustration which the history of the League gives of the educational value of a successful philanthropic society, which aims at the broadest and most permanent results and seeks them by methods that are both scientific and practical. In these days of a multiplicity of great and expensive societies, it is a public service to show what can be done with small resources of men and money, and without official organs and great public meetings. Of our place by the side of the denominational societies we shall speak near the close of this Report.

LEGISLATION ON THE FAMILY IN 1897.

As the Legislatures of nearly all the States held their sessions, which are now biennial in most instances, in 1897, we can report considerable new Legislation regarding the Family. The small number of Legislatures meeting in 1896 add two or three statutes which were not noticed in our last Report. As has been the case for sev-

eral years, the legislation is almost entirely conservative of the Family.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

Improved Marriage laws are secured in a number of States. Indiana designates the classes of persons who may celebrate marriages. Missouri requires that all such shall be citizens of the United States. Probate Courts in Michigan may now issue Marriage Licenses privately under careful regulations, to protect the good name of women in certain cases. Oklahoma has repealed her former loose Marriage law and enacted a new one, with a system of license, returns, and records much like that of the older States. Administration of the law is put into the hands of the Courts of Probate. The effort for reform in New Jersey, where the old loose law of Marriage without proper license led to great abuses, has in part succeeded. The new law now requires a Marriage license, where both parties are non-residents, to be issued at least five days before the marriage. In such cases at least one of the parties must be identified to the Clerk, and it must be made evident to him that no legal impediment to the marriage exists. Citizens of the State, it appears, can still be married without license from the authorities. The law is a great check upon the evils that made New Jersey a scandal.

Massachusetts and New Hampshire improve their excellent laws for the registration of Marriage still farther. Oklahoma has adopted the system of the better Eastern States in place of her former crude License law. In Massachusetts, the plan of including all facts regarding previous conjugal condition among those required in the license gives clergymen official information in cases of a previous Divorce, and will enable statisticians to show the number of divorced persons who marry again in a given year, as Connecticut has done. Connecticut has also increased the efficiency of her Registration law. This State has provided for the complete record of all Births, Marriages, and Deaths from the date of the incorporation of the towns and cities, as far as these facts can be copied from public and church records. This provision will be of value in deciding matters of inheritance and in genealogical investigations, whose influence upon the Family cannot fail to be beneficial. California has granted to certain religious denominations the privilege of Marriage according to their rites without previous license; but such Marriages must be acknowledged to the civil authorities within thirty days, and recorded by them.

DIVORCE LEGISLATION.

California has now made the Marriage of divorced persons illegal until one year after the decree of Divorce has been rendered. Wash-

ington makes the offer by advertisement to procure Divorces, annulments of Marriage, etc., a misdemeanor, following, in this respect, recent legislation in California and Illinois. Kansas has forbidden her courts to grant Divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the husband or wife. Minnesota has adopted the former recommendation of the Commissions on Uniform Legislation, and made the term of residence in the State before Divorce one year. While I think this period too short, we must remember that a short term that is uniform is pretty effective on this particular point. The bill now before the commissioners, it will be seen later, under the head of Uniformity, names two years. Vermont makes provision for the legal separation, without Divorce, of husband and wife for any of the causes for which divorces may be granted. This affords relief to those especially whose conviction of duty forbids their resort to absolute Divorce. An amendment of the laws of Maine permits its courts to hear petitions for Divorce in certain cases "if the libellee is a resident of this State." Michigan has adopted a good system for the collection and publication of statistics of Divorce. This makes ten States I believe, which now furnish these most important statistics. The number of States supplying statistics of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces should be rapidly increased, in order that these most important of social movements can be intelligently followed. Pennsylvania has granted certain public officers the power to take depositions regarding Divorce, and to husbands the privilege of Divorce for cruel treatment by the wife. Maryland can now be added to the growing list of States that provide for the punishment by fine or imprisonment of the man who wilfully deserts his wife or child, or who fails, without just cause, to provide for their support. The effort to transfer the jurisdiction of Divorce entirely to the courts has failed in Delaware, whose Legislature granted forty-nine Divorces in 1895. Virginia amends her laws providing for the revoking of Divorce in certain cases. Congress did good work in this general direction in 1896 by its excellent Marriage law for the District of Columbia, and in prescribing a uniform term of residence for one year before a Divorce can be granted in any of the Territories.

Other departments of Family law have given us some legislation of more or less importance. These relate to the extension of the property rights of married women, to the adoption of children from State institutions by families, or to the admission of children into such institutions, and raising the "age of consent." Louisiana now allows married women to make and withdraw their own bank-deposits without the intervention of their husbands.

While the legislation thus noted is less important in any one instance

than that of some recent years, it pretty fairly represents the continuous and healthy movement in the right direction. Good legislative enactments are now the rule, to which the exceptions are rare and unimportant, and good measures have almost invariably come to stay in the statute-books. More would doubtless be done but for the fact that many are waiting for the Commissions on Uniformity to make further recommendations. The results abundantly justify the policy of the League in respect to legislation, which has led us to encourage a healthy public opinion, give information, point out needs, and then leave the formulation and enactment of specific measures to those most intimately concerned. In the end far more of permanent value is gained than by other methods.

UNIFORM LEGISLATION.

Thirty States and one Territory have now established commissions to promote uniform legislation, and special effort is recommended to create commissions in the other States. At the last Conference a draft of a proposed uniform law relative to Divorce was submitted by Mr. John C. Richberg, of Chicago, chairman of the Committee on Marriage and Divorce. This is "modelled somewhat after the Divorce law of the District of Columbia, which had been carefully revised by the judiciary committees of the House and Senate, and passed by Congress." The report was referred back to the committee and will come up for consideration at the Conference next summer.

Under this bill, says the official report of the Commissioners, "the causes of Divorce are to be left to the several States to provide, as now, that being a subject in which, in the judgment of the commissioners, uniformity of law throughout the whole country is not practicable; perhaps not desirable." There are eighteen sections in this bill, covering, aside from causes, all subjects that are usually found in statutory law. A residence of two years in the State before a suit can be brought; the questionable permission to both parties to marry again; and the punishment of the advertisement of the procuring of Divorces are some of the noticeable features of this bill. I think it should be widely published and its provisions carefully studied for criticism within the next few months, though it may be nothing more than a tentative proposal of a part of the commissioners only.

THE ORIGIN OF OUR LOOSE LEGISLATION.

It is a common but erroneous opinion that our lax Marriage laws, and especially our lax Divorce laws, have come into being after the greatly increased demand for Divorce began; or, in other words, that

the lax legislation has followed the growing desire for Divorce; and, therefore, the present legal facilities are a proper concession to popular needs, made as these have arisen. But it should be understood that our lax system of regulating the formation and dissolution of the Family is quite as much due to other causes in many States, though not in all. The last addition to the legal grounds of Divorce in Connecticut, for instance, was made as long ago as 1849; and the numerous legal causes in New Hampshire, and, I think, in other States, have not been changed for a still longer period. In many Central and Western States the loose laws on these subjects are often the inheritance from Territorial and early State Legislatures, and were made at times when frontier conditions and crude legislative skill shaped law.

To-day public sentiment, both East and West, is better than our legislation, and is steadily telling upon the statutes. Judging from the increasing inquiries from the West and the tone of the press, it is evident that the sending of our Annual Reports and other publications to the libraries of the colleges, the cities and towns, and to the press and the clergy in the West, has been highly useful in affecting legislation as well as public opinion. The friends of reform should act upon the truth that legal reform is now needed to relieve their legislation of early carelessness when lax Divorce laws were tolerably safe, because the willingness to seek relief from domestic ills in Divorce was then comparatively uncommon. For the social restlessness of our times has availed itself of legislative indulgence already granted before the desire for Divorce had increased in very great and general degree.

STATISTICS.

The necessity for official statistics, covering as long periods as practicable, for the intelligent study of the problems of Marriage and Divorce and for the guidance of legislation is now well recognized, though their limitations are also well known. The late General Walker once said that the disclosure of one single fact in the Government Report on Marriage and Divorce — that eighty per cent of all the Divorces where the place of marriage was also known had been granted in the very States where the parties were married — alone repaid the nation the cost of the investigation; for it had convinced all intelligent students of the subject that it would be, for many years at least, a waste of effort to disturb the adjustment of our States to the Federal system by a useless and perhaps most harmful amendment of the Constitution. Yet this was but one of many invaluable results of that investigation. Either in connection with the next census or probably by itself, the statistics since the period covered by

that report, which was for the years 1867–1886, should be gathered and those on other points be included. Few subjects of statistical inquiry are of so great importance to the public welfare as this one of the Family, and none more so. We should begin soon to seek this end. Meanwhile, more of the States should provide for the annual collection and publication of their own statistics of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces.

PUBLICATIONS.

There is a constant demand for the publications of the League by students, editors, the clergy, and those interested in legislation. We are now unable to meet the requests for our earlier Reports and papers that come from libraries and special students. The supply is exhausted. Our later publications are also nearly all out of print, and our lack of funds has restricted the issue of new papers. While sending freely when we can to all applicants, we have taken especial care to meet the calls of college and public libraries, from which there is a great demand for all our publications, and where they are in large use by students. More should be issued as fast as funds are supplied. We have been careful to leave the issue of tracts on the ordinary phases of our subjects to the various religious publication societies, confining our own to the more scientific methods of treatment. A small special fund for publication would be useful.

CORRESPONDENCE.

That part of the work which makes the League a medium of exchange between the sources of information and those who study the Family and write or speak upon it is growing every year, and that notwithstanding the facilities which college and public libraries now supply through their collections of our Reports and papers. Inquiries for literature and for suggestions come almost daily through the busy seasons of the year from all parts of the country. Professors and students in colleges and theological seminaries, members of social science clubs, and others, are frequent correspondents. This is a kind of work that comes unsolicited and seems likely to increase in the future.

THE RELATION OF THE HOME TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

Our Report last year pointed out more fully than had been done before the bearing of the Home upon other subjects of social importance. The relation of the Family to the interests of Capital and Labor and to Good Citizenship was considered. The importance of the Home in the prevention of crime, intemperance, and vice gener-

ally was urged, and its relations to the problems of education and the work of women were discussed. The growing use of the Home Department of the Sunday-school to secure Bible study in families beyond the immediate reach of the Sunday-school room was noticed. This feature of the Report has proved useful. There has been a decided gain, both in study, work, and results, in all these directions the last year. In every direction there has been a larger recognition of the Home as a centre of philanthropic effort.

THE FAMILY AND THE WORK OF WOMEN.

The holding in Washington of a great meeting of women is of annual occurrence. But in February last there was held there a meeting of women of unusual significance; for it was, both in name and mainly in fact, a Mothers' Congress, called to consider those subjects which concern women most as mothers, and it was closely held, with few exceptions, to its main object, though women of every shade of opinion were present. The leaders saw that this will in time create a demand for a Congress of Parents, in which both fathers and mothers shall unite in the consideration of their common problems. A Parents' National Educational Union is doing vigorous work in England.

In the past year I have been invited to address several organizations and clubs of women who recognize the supreme importance of the study by women, in some large and practical way, of the Home itself and its capacities for aiding in the work which it must share with the School and Church. The serious attention which many cultivated and earnest women of various opinions concerning the rights of sex are giving to the needs of the Home is most encouraging.

President G. Stanley Hall has recently spoken, with greater plainness than ever, in an address before the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, on the need of more direct attention to motherhood in the education of women. From the newspaper report of the address, the only one yet available, a few thoughts are taken. Women, he said, had first the cloister period of education, and now they are in the imitative period, copying the education of man. Attention to the education for motherhood comes next, in which we should not work for the unmarried minority, but educate every young woman believing that she is to be a mother; then if wifehood and motherhood do not come, let that take care of itself. We must push questions of sex to the utmost. Instead of closer identification of men and women there is to be a higher and nobler difference.

This is an instance of what appears to be the increasing tendency of psychologists and leading educators toward a marked change of

opinion regarding the education of women, and one which, if it takes place, will bring to the Family and the Home a reinforcement of great value. I find that some are now turning back to an article of mine in the *Atlantic Monthly* of November, 1892, which, under the title of "Sociology in the Higher Education of Women," made a plea for the Home similar to that of President Hall, but from the sociological point of view. The women's clubs will naturally turn to these subjects soon, and the few Parental Associations that now exist will greatly increase.

THE HOME IN THE EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

The interest in the relation of the Home to the Public School, of which our last Report spoke at some length, is increasing in a healthful way. It was reported in an educational address last summer that the Brookline, Mass., plan of an Educational Association for the closer co-operation of citizens, parents, and teachers in their common work had been followed in some forty cities and towns in the country. Probably in many more some measures are taken for frequent co-operation of parents and teachers beyond the formal report which is now regularly sent to parents in nearly all our best schools. I have had some opportunities for conference with teachers and superintendents of schools about this work, and find them more than ready to meet parents and citizens on this common ground. The Brookline movement is especially due to the initiative and support of the Superintendent, Mr. Samuel T. Dutton, and Mr. D. P. Sanford, the Principal of the High School. It has in it a great future in working out the proper adjustment of the Home and School. This leads to a topic closely related to another part of last year's work.

SHALL THE CHURCH SEE ITS OWN OPPORTUNITY?

This has become a practical question in some churches, and I have constantly pressed it throughout the year in addresses in churches, and at their conventions. The Church, the School, and the Home are really at work on the common task of forming the character of the young. But each institution has hitherto isolated itself too much from the others. For a hundred years our American people have been intent upon the invention and development of associations founded on what may be called the collective or communal type of association as their chief means of doing the work of religion and public education. A congregation, a school, a society, are the familiar forms of this type. Our churches are now full of these social agencies, and they have been immensely effective; for the assembly of such individuals as can readily come together in one place from a given locality for com-

mon work is probably the most effective, as it is the most universal, form of association known to human society, excepting always the Family group. Its growth marks a high stage of civilization. Our own times have witnessed its remarkable service in the industrial corporations for the purposes of capital and labor, and for an infinite variety of uses for political, educational, religious, and philanthropic objects. "Go to, let us form a society or hire a hall" is the universal cry. We do not work easily in any other way.

But this type of social organization has its limitations, especially in religious and educational work. Geographical distance, social separation, lack of the conventional garb and manners, physical infirmity, want of sympathy, moral inertia, and other things put their serious limitations upon the Church that depends wholly upon a central collection of people for its opportunity. The association breaks up into lesser societies or crumbles away at the outer edges, and so fails to touch large numbers of people.

One institution, however, holds the ground more universally than any other, though much of its strength may have gone to build up others. This is the Family. But, while receiving much in return for all that is done for it, the Family has not yet had anything like the care and inventive skill which have given us that remarkable succession of societies, classes, and committees within the local church that have marked the history of the Church for a century. Its own powers for constructive work have been greatly neglected. And yet the Home has the resources of nearness to actual life, of time, of natural affection, and of interest that well match in power the peculiar resources of the collective organization. It is the privilege of the Church to seize upon the collective and the domestic types of association and make each yield its own resources.

Much more than this should be said; for the comparative neglect of the Home demands for it special attention until it shall be rescued from its present inactivity as a religious institution and made to do its full share of the common work. The Home Department of the Sunday-school, now rapidly coming into use everywhere, was devised to show what can be done through application of this principle of social proportion in a single direction. It makes use of the Home itself and by itself, though under the care of the Sunday-school, to reach in Bible study those who could not be drawn into the schoolroom for the purpose. It has abundantly proven its power to do this. Three-fourths of its members are those who never could be collected into the School by the old plan alone.

But this is, like the use of electricity to convey signs, only a beginning of what may follow when the Christian mind really applies itself

to the development of the resources of the Home for religious and moral training. Serious as the evils are that threaten the integrity of the Family, I believe that more serious still is the growing disuse of the Home as a place for religious and moral discipline. But the hopeful sign about it all is the hearty response which is everywhere made when these things are pointed out. There is an open field here which the leaders in Church work quickly recognize and which they will readily enter. The great need now is to bring the subject home to the Church as a whole.

There has been far too great neglect of the Family at the centres of religious influence. A few weeks ago the Baptist Social Union of Boston gave an evening to the Family, with three addresses, two of them from officers of our League. The unusual interest in the subject was unmistakable. Yet none of us who were present could recall another instance, save a paper many years ago on Divorce Legislation, in which the Family had been before any one of the several similar denominational clubs of Boston. I fear other centres have not much better records to show. Neither the convocations, conrerences, conventions of churches, nor the plans of work in individual churches have yet done much of the serious and persistent work in behalf of the Home which this institution needs and which will amply repay the most careful plans. I have purposely spoken at length upon this point because I know that many who tell us that they carefully read our Reports will be glad to get the suggestions implied in our treatment of it. The times are ripe for a decided advance in precisely this direction. And there is some danger that the Church will not be thoroughly awake to the danger that she is in of a tardy response to the movement towards the Home as a social force that has now fairly begun in several directions.

THE HOME AND OTHER PHILANTHROPIC WORK.

Instead of a paper which I was asked to prepare for its meeting in Austin, Texas, last December, I sent aletter asking for the co-operation of the National Prison Association in directing general attention to the need of special care for the relation of the Home to the causes of crime, and to its great resources for the prevention of crime. This will be published in the proceedings of that Association. It is hoped that it and the remarks that perhaps may be printed with it will do something to turn public attention to the great need of guarding against the increase of crime through bad homes.

The brief report, which was made a year ago at the request of the Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Drink Problem, has been completed, and is now at the disposal of that committee. It

covered two points: a statement of the provisions actually made for the use of the Home itself as a place for training its inmates in temperance; and the opinions of teachers of ethics as to what, in their judgment, the Home should do. The interested reader is referred to the Report of our League for 1896 for some account of these opinions.

Wherever I meet those who are in practical contact with the defective, the dependent, and delinquent classes of society I find the strongest conviction of the value of the work of the League in calling attention to the needs of the Home, and to the great importance of the careful study and larger use of the Home in the work of philanthropy. Of the deep interest of this class and of all scientific students of social problems in our work, we may always rest assured. The preventive work of an improved Home life, and its value, even as a remedial agency, are being more clearly understood every year. The returns here are slower and less striking to the eye, but they are of much more permanent value to society than the rescue work which appeals to our sympathies.

THE LEAGUE AND OTHER BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

This subject needs some special consideration. For several years the increase of our income has been checked by general financial conditions and the great needs of the many church and outside societies, whose work has grown more rapidly than their funds. The complaint is general that the liberal givers of large sums are passing away, and that others are not coming forward to take their places, and that the many are not giving as the few are. It is feared that, in proportion to either numbers or wealth, our churches are not, as a rule, gaining in their benevolent contributions. The claims of the League have been constantly conceded by many who have never contributed to its treasury. These facts demand consideration in our Report, for the subject has not been taken up very fully hitherto.

Taking the religious denomination to which I belong as fairly representative, what do we see? Here are six organizations that have official recognition as the great denominational societies to which all the churches are desired to contribute annually. These send missionaries and money to foreign lands and to needy parts of our own country; they educate and support ministers; they plant and aid churches and Sunday-schools; they build houses of worship, and publish a Christian literature. All practically goes for the creation, support, and administration of organizations known as local churches. And within most of these local churches there are several smaller societies which seek to increase and guide the interest in the work of

the Church through its great societies. More men and women for the great work of the Church and its ministries, and especially more money for the support of it all! This is the cry everywhere. The problem of their support is a serious one.

In what direction shall we look for relief? More intelligence, wiser and more earnest appeals, systematic giving in various forms, are urged. But most of these have been worked with great diligence, though doubtless not to their full extent. Is it not time to examine with careful scrutiny the resources of the Home itself for its share in the supply of men and money? The public appeal may bring the individual to a decision and may draw the dollar from the purse; but the degree in which we succeed in doing this may be determined far more by the training and character of the Home life than by any other single thing. "My interest in missions," said a layman of high standing to me, "dates back to my father's sitting-room. You have made a good point when you said just now that this need of more money for foreign missions must be largely met in the Home." Yet one of the secretaries of a "Home Missionary Society," so-called, but which devotes itself almost wholly to organizing and supporting churches, expressed great surprise, after hearing an address from your Secretary, at the many points in which our work touched that of his own society. Some appreciate our service to their societies, and show it in contributions; but more than one secretary of these great denominational societies would be surprised if he knew how strong is the sympathy which missionaries everywhere have for our work, and the value they put upon it.

While I have never asked that any one should turn away a dollar from the church societies to our treasury, I have felt and said that if each of these great societies should take a thousand dollars from their treasury annually and devote it to the Home in direct ways it would bring ampler returns than any other similar sum they expend. Or a seventh society, spending ten thousand dollars a year in direct work for the Home, would add that sum and a great deal more to the resources of the present six denominational societies of the Congregationalists. And much the same could be said, probably, of most of the other Christian bodies.

Two things may be done. The society or other institution that attends directly to the Family may always have an honorable place in the list of the annual charities of churches and individuals, both for the sake of the Family itself and in the interests of all benevolent societies. This should be granted in most cases. Rarely should the society that aids the Family be passed by. Then, in view of the importance and special needs of the Family and its past neglect, some extraordi-

nary gifts may be sought. A generous endowment of our Society has been suggested. And why should not some one come forward to do this service? How many chairs in any educational institution have accomplished more in a dozen years to educate and shape our public life and help inform and guide individuals, or serve the church, than the League has done in that time at as little cost as the average college or seminary professorship? Can any one show many instances of better results from a like sum devoted to the support of churches West or South? Why not, then, put fifty or a hundred thousand dollars into a work that may go on for the benefit of the Family so long as this institution shall last? Such an investment would help reduce the calls for money to support or reform those who are now the results of our neglect to care for the Home itself. "This is a reform," wrote a lady contributor, "which, if successful, will render other reforms unnecessary." Who will be the first to contribute toward this endowment? Some measures, certainly, should be devised to pay off the debt and put the League on such a financial basis that salary and other office expenses would be assured at all times, leaving all contributions to go to pay the cost of publication and the general work.

Our receipts in 1897 were $2,272.07, being an increase over those of the previous year of $153.09. The expenses of 1897 were $2,420.95, leaving a deficit of $112.21 for the year. This, with the debt incurred in earlier years, makes the present debt $846.94, which is the sum now due the Corresponding Secretary, who has always met all expenses as they are incurred.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL W. DIKE,
Corresponding Secretary.

Jan. 28, 1898.

Treasurer's Report.

WM. G. BENEDICT, *Treasurer*,
In account with the National Divorce Reform League.

DR.		CR.	
Dec. 31, 1897.		Dec. 31, 1897.	
To Receipts from Contributions for the year 1897, as per details on Cash Book . .	$2,272.07	By Disbursements for the year 1897, as per Cash Book.	
		General Expenses: —	
		Travelling of Secretary	$210.05
		Postage	45.35
		Printing	85.95
		Stationery	12.16
		Advertising, Express, etc.	17.44
		Rent	50.00
		Paid on Account of Salary of S. W. Dike, LL.D., Secretary .	1,851.12
	$2,272.07		$2,272.07

MEMORANDA.

Due Dr. Dike on Salary Dec. 31, 1895, . .	$356.17
Deficiency in 1896 . . .	341.89
Deficiency in 1897 . . .	148.88
	$846.94

I have examined this Report and find the same correct.

W. B. HERRICK, *Auditor*.

Jan. 28, 1898.

Jan.	1.	Rev. W. H. H. Moore, Hartford, Ct.	$3 00
	5.	Pres. Seth Low, LL.D., New York	50 00
	5.	Charles King, Washington, D. C.	5 00
	9.	D. B. Ford, Boston	10 00
	11.	Col. Jacob L. Greene, Hartford, Ct.	35 00
	12.	J. W. Danielson, Providence, R. I.	10 00
	12.	Rt. Rev. Leighton Coleman, D.D., Wilmington, Del.	3 00
	18.	State Street Cong. Church, Portland, Me.	25 00
	22.	Mrs. Theodore D. Woolsey, New Haven, Ct. . . .	50 00
	25.	Charles N. Prouty, Spencer	5 00

Jan.	25.	Mrs. Sarah A. Temple, Spencer	$2 00
	25.	Congregational Church, Warren	7 00
	25.	Rev. Daniel Merriman, D.D., Worcester	50 00
	27.	Second Congregational Church, Norwich, Ct.	11 00
		Received in January	$266 00
Feb.	6.	James C. Braman, Auburndale	$10 00
	6.	Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee, Brookline	5 00
	6.	William P. Henzy, Philadelphia	20 00
	6.	Hon. Jonathan A. Lane, Boston	5 00
	8.	Rev. F. N. Peloubet, D.D., Auburndale	10 00
	8.	Prof. Henry W. Farnham, New Haven, Ct.	50 00
	8.	Mrs. George H. Corliss, Providence	10 00
	8.	Robert C. Ogden, Philadelphia	25 00
	9.	Hon. William E. Dodge, New York	100 00
	9.	"A. B.," Worcester	25 00
	9.	Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., LL.D., Cambridge	25 00
	9.	Pres. Edward W. Gallandet, LL.D., Washington, D.C.	5 00
	10.	St. John's Church, Washington, D. C.	15 00
	10.	Rev. C. W. Huntington, Lowell	5 00
	11.	Prof. J. Henry Thayer, D.D., Cambridge	3 00
	12.	Rev. George U. Wenner, D.D., New York	1 00
	13.	The Very Rev. E. A. Hoffman, D.D., New York	25 00
	13.	Missionary Society, St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.	5 00
	13.	Pres. W DeWitt Hyde, D.D., Brunswick, Me.	5 00
	16.	Hon. Nathaniel Shipman, LL.D., Hartford, Ct.	25 00
	16.	Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Worcester	5 00
	16.	Rev. Walter Glynne, Summit, N. J.	1 00
	17.	Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Pittsburg, Pa.	25 00
	19.	Rev. Alexander R. Vinton, D.D., Worcester	10 00
	22.	Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, Baltimore, Md.	10 00
	24.	Christ Church, Fitchburg	10 68
	25.	Alfred T. White, Brooklyn, N. Y.	10 00
	26.	Rt. Rev. Daniel S. Tuttle, D.D., St. Louis, Mo.	5 00
	27.	Arthur T. Lyman, Boston	5 00
		Received in February	$455 68
Mar.	2.	Prof. E. Y. Hincks, D.D., Andover	$5 00
	2.	Prof. W. E. Huntington, Ph.D., Newton Centre	5 00
	3.	Rev. Leroy S. Bean, Portland, Me.	5 00
	3.	Morris K. Jesup, New York	5 00
	3.	Rev. William Prall, D.D., Detroit, Mich.	3 00
	3.	E. R. H. Lyman, Brooklyn, N. Y.	25 00
	5.	Rev. Paul Van Dyke, D.D., Northampton	5 00
	5.	Rev. John W. Buckham, Salem	3 00
	8.	Prof. C. R. Henderson, D.D., Chicago, Ill.	1 00
	9.	St. Bartholomew's Church, New York	100 00
	9.	Hon. Charles C. Burr, Auburndale	40 00
	10.	Rev. S. P. Leeds, D.D., Hanover, N. H.	5 00
	11.	Rev. Charles M. Southgate, Auburndale	5 00
	12.	William G. Benedict, Boston	25 00
	13.	Rt. Rev. Arthur C. A. Hall, D.D., Burlington, Vt.	5 00
	13.	Rev. George B. Johnson, Burlington, Vt.	5 00

Mar.	13.	George P. Davis, Brookline	$5 00	
	13.	W. C. Whittemore, Washington, D. C.	5 00	
	13.	J. N. Denison, Boston	25 00	
	19.	Wingate P. Sargent, Melrose	5 00	
	19.	Theophilus King, Quincy	5 00	
	20.	First Congregational Church, Waterbury, Ct.	31 27	
	23.	Park Congregational Church, Norwich, Ct.	25 00	
		Received in March		$343 27
April	2.	Miss Martha C. Burgess, Dedham	$10 00	
	3.	Robert H. Gardiner, Chestnut Hill	5 00	
	5.	Rev. Cornelius H. Patton, Duluth, Minn.	3 00	
	7.	Stuart Wood, Philadelphia	10 00	
	13.	W. A. Knowlton, Auburndale	5 00	
	15.	W. W. Lockwood, Detroit, Mich.	5 00	
	22.	Rev. H.C. Trumbull, D.D., LL.D., Philadelphia	5 00	
	23.	Rev. S. W. Dana, D.D., Philadelphia	5 00	
	24.	Rev. R. S. Storrs, D.D., LL.D., Brooklyn, N. Y.	5 00	
	24.	George Burnham, Philadelphia	25 00	
	24.	Rev. Morgan Dix, D.D., D.C.L., New York	25 00	
		Received in April		$103 00
May	14.	Hon. S. B. Capen, Boston	$10 00	
	19.	Charles A. Peabody, M.D., Worcester	10 00	
	24.	Rev. Llewellyn Pratt, D.D., Norwich, Ct.	10 00	
	26.	Mrs. Richard H. Dana, Cambridge	5 00	
	26.	N. Noyes, Whitman	1 00	
	27.	Rev. Francis Goodwin, Hartford, Ct.	20 00	
	27.	Charles E. Ranlet, Auburndale	5 00	
		Received in May		$61 00
June	2.	Hon. Edmund H. Bennett, LL.D., Boston	$10 00	
	2.	George Ripley, Andover	10 00	
	3.	Rev. William S. Hazen, D.D., Northfield, Vt.	2 00	
	10.	Rev. Charles F. Dole, Jamaica Plain	5 00	
	11.	Hon. R. D. Benedict, Brooklyn, N. Y.	10 00	
	11.	Rev. A. M. Merwin, Pasadena, Cal.	3 00	
	11.	Jacob Rogers, Lowell	10 00	
	18.	Grace Church, New York	100 00	
	28.	St. Paul's Church, New Haven, Ct.	10 00	
	29.	Broadway Congregational Church, Norwich, Ct.	15 00	
		Received in June		$175 00
July	5.	St. Ann's Church, Lowell	$25 00	
	13.	George B. Knapp, Auburndale	10 00	
	16.	Edwin Ginn, Winchester	10 00	
		Received in July		$45 00
Aug.	8.	Congregational Church, Falmouth	$2 12	
	12.	Rev. W. Spooner Smith, Auburndale	10 00	
		Received in August		$12 12

Sept.	6.	Miss Elizabeth H. Houghton	$25 00
	7.	"B. B.," New York	25 00
	13.	Rev. Horace Dutton, Auburndale	5 00
	20.	Rev. George M. Steele, D.D., Chicago, Ill.	5 00
	21.	Samuel Johnson, Boston	10 00
	21.	J. Howard Nichols, Newton	5 00
	23.	Rev. Austin Basset, Ware	5 00
	23.	S. P. Wilder, Newton Centre	1 00
	24.	Rev. P. T. Farwell, Wellesley Hills	5 00
	29.	Rev. H. W. Ballantyne, Baltimore, Md.	2 00
	30.	Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, Ct.	50 00
		Received in September	$138 00
Oct.	7.	Old South Church, Boston (in part)	$25 00
	15.	Mrs. Mary L. Mitchell, Waterbury, Ct.	50 00
	15.	Hon. F. J. Kingsbury, LL.D., Waterbury, Ct.	25 00
	15.	Rev. John G. Davenport, D.D., Waterbury, Ct.	5 00
	15.	Mrs. Gilman C. Hill, Waterbury, Ct.	5 00
	15.	Mrs. Wallace H. Camp, Waterbury, Ct.	20 00
	24.	"B. C.," Hyde Park	1 00
	25.	Rev. Joshua Coit, Winchester	3 00
	26.	W. H. Eaton, Lee	5 00
	28.	John Gilchrist, Roxbury	5 00
	30.	Rev. Henry Hopkins, D.D., Kansas City, Mo.	5 00
		Received in October	$149 00
Nov.	10.	St. John's Church, Providence	$25 00
	12.	Rev. John H. Denison, D.D., Williamstown	10 00
	17.	Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, LL.D., New Haven, Ct.	50 00
	18.	Trinity Church, Boston	25 00
	19.	Hon. John H. Washburn, New York	20 00
	20.	Mrs. W. E. Dodge, New York	20 00
	20.	Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, New York	20 00
	22.	Prof. John Phelps Taylor, D.D., Andover	5 00
	23.	Anson Phelps Stokes, New York	10 00
	24.	Prof. Francis G. Peabody, D.D., Cambridge	5 00
	27.	W. B. Herrick, Auburndale	10 00
		Received in November	$200 00
Dec.	1.	A. C. Tenney	$2 00
	1.	Eliot Church, Newton	5 00
	1.	Rev. D. L. Furber, D.D., Newton Centre	2 00
	2.	Coolidge S. Roberts, Cambridge	20 00
	3.	Rev. W. W. Atterbury, D.D., New York	5 00
	3.	Col. Charles A. Hopkins, Brookline	10 00
	3.	Robert Treat Paine, Boston	5 00
	4.	Mrs. Horace Fairbanks, St. Johnsbury, Vt.	10 00
	4.	E. P. Dutton, New York	10 00
	6.	Pres. W. J. Tucker, D.D., LL.D., Hanover, N. H.	10 00
	6.	Rev. T. T. Munger, D.D., New Haven, Ct.	5 00
	7.	St. Luke's Church, Philadelphia, Pa.	25 00
	7.	Hon. L. D. Brewster, Danbury, Ct.	5 00

Dec.	8.	"A Vermont lady"	$50 00
	9.	Rev. F. E. Clark, D.D., Auburndale	10 00
	10.	Mrs. M. B. Whitney, Brookline	5 00
	11.	Congregational Church, Newton Centre	25 00
	11.	Rev. C. F. P. Bancroft, LL.D., Andover	5 00
	14.	Everett O. Fisk, Boston	5 00
	17.	Prof. George Harris, D.D., Andover	15 00
	20.	Hon. Edward L. Pickard, Auburndale	20 00
	21.	Rev. C. H. Spalding, D.D., Cambridge	10 00
	23.	Grace Congregational Church, South Framingham	5 00
	25.	Grace Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.	15 00
	27.	Rev. Frederick B. Allen, Boston	5 00
	27.	Miss M. Josephine Allen, Boston	5 00
	29.	J. H. Converse, Philadelphia	5 00
	31.	"M.," New York	5 00
	31.	First Church, Hartford, Ct.	25 00
		Received in December	$324 00

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

National League for the Protection of the Family.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be called the NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY.

ART. II. Its object shall be, through the improvement of public sentiment and legislation, to protect the institution of the Family, especially as affected by existing evils relating to Marriage and Divorce, and to secure its proper efficiency in individual and social life. It may co-operate with auxiliary or other bodies having similar aims in such ways as may be deemed expedient.

ART. III. It shall consist of the following persons, having power to fill vacancies and to add to their number. . . .

ART. IV. The officers of this Society shall be a President, not more than five Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of not more than twelve persons, of which committee the Corresponding Secretary shall be a member, and of which not less than three shall constitute a quorum, having the duties indicated in their several offices; to be elected at the Annual Meeting, and to hold office until their successors are appointed.

ART. V. THE LEAGUE shall hold its Annual Meeting on the third Wednesday in January, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and at such hour and place as shall be indicated in the call of the committee.

ART. VI. Amendments of this Constitution, of which due notice shall have been given in the call of any Annual Meeting, may be adopted at such meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS concerning the work of the LEAGUE and its general business should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. SAMUEL W. DIKE, LL.D., Auburndale, Mass.

CONTRIBUTIONS should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. WILLIAM G. BENEDICT, 610 Atlantic Avenue, Boston.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I hereby give and bequeath to the NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, a Corporation created by the Laws of the State of Connecticut, or its successors or assigns, the sum of.....dollars, the principal [or income, as may be desired] of which is to be used for the purposes for which said Corporation was chartered.